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The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Tucson and South Tucson's Federal Transit Administration Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grant. The resources will allow the Tucson cities to identify improvements that can be made in designated Opportunity Zones along the planning corridor and study area.

The cities are seeking \$2 million to identify affordable housing, economic development and business stabilization opportunities along an identified high capacity corridor connecting three major transit centers, high ridership bus routes and the Sun Link Streetcar located in downtown Tucson.

The plan builds on the remarkable success of the Sun Link Streetcar that has thus far generated nearly \$3 billion in public and private investments along the route. In fact, U.S. DOT has played a crucial role as a contributor to the downtown renaissance that has become a model for cities Tucson's size.

The proposed Bus Rapid Transit corridor extends from Downtown Tucson and the Sun Link Streetcar through the Oracle Avenue area, and winds through the City of South Tucson to reach destinations along the route to the Tucson International Airport.

The plan will assist with land use policies to support the development of denser, mixed-income and mixed-use development near transit that offers affordable housing and access to jobs and create entrepreneurial opportunities among local, minority-owned, independent and small businesses. The cities will accomplish these goals while strengthening regional connections between multi-modal systems such as the Tucson International Airport, Greyhound, and the Amtrak station.

The City of Tucson has a strong record of success managing grants and leveraging federal funds having successfully completed construction of the Streetcar with FTA dollars, and a myriad of successful housing grants including the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of the City of Tucson and City of South Tucson's grant application.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress